

fact that the Honduran people need to be respected, as does their Constitution.

When the people of Honduras, through their elected representatives, follow their Constitution, we should applaud, not decry it. When they have a system of laws based on their Constitution which allows free and open elections, we ought to do everything we can to support them rather than condemn them.

It is strange in this world, as we are looking at the possibilities, however fragile they might be, of elections in some other areas of the world, that the Honduran people stand ready to hold their elections pursuant to their Constitution. The United States Government, the United States State Department, and the people of the United States ought to respect that rather than criticize that.

Let us stand up for the Constitution not only in this country, but the valid constitutions of other countries.

HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. All across the Nation, people are watching this Capitol to see if we are going to have the ability and the courage to stand up to the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies who have had a stranglehold on our politics.

There is a reason why 47 million Americans are uninsured. It's because they cannot afford the rates that the insurance companies charge. There is a reason why 50 million Americans are underinsured. It's because the copays and the deductibles are so high they're driving people to the poorhouse. This is not just simply a matter of the health of our Nation and the health of our people, it's a matter of our economy and the economic well-being of the American family.

Congress rightfully should be debating a single payer plan right now, which shuts the insurance companies out of this grab that they've had here for years, but we're not going to do that. The best we can do and the least we can do is at least have a public option so that people have some faith that there is some bargaining agent in there to knock down the cost of insurance.

It's time we stood up for the American people and challenge these insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 676 and H.R. 3012

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name from H.R. 676 and H.R. 3012.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND ITS ROGUE GALLERY OF MISFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, for over 60 years, Israel has had to fight for its mere existence. No other nation has suffered more discrimination and outright threats from the United Nations itself. There have been more U.N. resolutions condemning Israel than any other nation, more than 20 a year.

Approximately 80 percent of country censures issued by the United Nations Human Rights Council are aimed at the nation of Israel, and last week they did it again, issuing another report self-righteously condemning Israel.

But let's just take a look at who some of the members of this so-called "human rights" council are. It's really a rogue's gallery of dictators and tyrants.

The Communist countries of Cuba and China have a seat at the U.N. human rights table. These two stellar threats to their own people are self-righteously condemning Israel. The whole world saw China's disrespect for human rights on display in Tiananmen Square. Religious persecutions, the one-child policy, forced abortions for people who already have one child, persecutions of political dissidents are rampant, and speech against the government is brutally suppressed. China is, yes, a truly shining example of human rights. Yeah, right.

And then there is the tiny Communist country of Cuba, you know, the Mario brothers, Fidel and Raul. They have over 250 prisons in that nation. Political dissidents are beaten and tortured in this island paradise of persecution. Some have died in prison from this abuse. Cuba is a nation that denies human rights to its own people.

And then there is Iran. Iran also sits on the United Nations Human Rights Council. Now, what a surprise that is. What legitimate human rights organization would want Iran as a member? Run by the mullahs and the little fella from the desert, Ahmadinejad, Iran systematically violates human rights. Unarmed men and women are still in jail today for peacefully protesting this summer's rigged presidential election. You know, Madam Speaker, the election where the government murdered unarmed students who wanted freedom. The ones who survived were beaten and tortured, they are denied medical care in jail, and some are sexually assaulted by the jailers as retribution. Some Ira-

nian human rights activists simply disappear, never to be seen again.

Amnesty International says that right now they know of eight women at risk of being stoned to death in Iran for adultery. Of course, if a woman is raped in Iran, that sometimes is considered adultery, too. And the male perpetrator, well, he's released.

In 2004, a 13-year-old girl, Zhila Izadi, was sentenced to death by stoning for being raped and impregnated by her 15-year-old brother. One news report says that the international outrage forced a reduction from death to 55 lashes. After Zhila gave birth to the baby, the government stole her child.

The people of Iran and Iranian Americans continue to cry out against their own government's crimes against the Iranian citizens and their violations of human rights.

Iran is also sending money and equipment to worldwide terrorist groups. To make matters worse, the tiny tyrant of Iran, Ahmadinejad, says he wants to wipe all of Israel off the map. He is making nuclear weapons and building intercontinental ballistic missiles. Now, who do you think these missiles are aimed at? And Iran sits on the United Nations Human Rights Council. This rogue's gallery of misfits has no moral basis to sit in judgment of Israel or anyone else for that matter.

Israel has been fighting for its existence ever since it came into being a nation.

□ 1430

In 1967, it was attacked by its neighbors. It gained territory in that defensive war, including in the West Bank, in Gaza and in the Sinai Peninsula. International law requires that land won in a defensive war must be returned when there is a negotiated peace.

Time and again, Israel has placed itself in jeopardy, has given back land and has traded that land for an empty promise of peace, and Israel is still committed to peace.

Israel and the Palestinians need to problem-solve their issues and need to establish a permanent peace for Israel and for the Palestinian community. There must be a mutual respect for Jews and Muslims. Solutions will occur when respect and honesty are present on both sides. What Israel asks in return is that her enemies merely stop trying to kill her people.

Yet the U.N. Human Rights Council continues to bash Israel. Some members of the council are themselves overwhelmingly guilty of human rights violations and of violent crimes against their own people. These hypocrites have no place at the judgment seat, deciding human rights violations for Israel or for any other nation.

And that's just the way it is.

FEED THE HUNGRY, STARVE TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, last week, the Hill newspaper here in Washington asked CRS, the Congressional Research Service, to provide information on the cost of the war in Afghanistan.

The CRS reported that it now costs the United States about \$3.6 billion per month, on average, or more than \$43 billion a year. The CRS also reported that it costs about \$1 million to send a U.S. soldier to Afghanistan for 1 year. So, if President Obama listens to the advice he is getting from some of those around him and if he sends 40,000 more troops to Afghanistan, the war will cost another \$40 billion a year, or nearly double.

Yet what have we been getting, I ask you, Madam Speaker, for all of that money? The answer is: Higher casualty rates, a growing insurgency and an Afghan public that increasingly sees America as an occupier, not as a liberator.

This is the result of a fatal flaw in our Afghan policy since the war began. We have relied far too much on the military option alone while, at the same time, putting very few dollars into what would really work in Afghanistan. Instead, what would work is better intelligence and better policing to disrupt terrorist networks; better governance, justice systems, economic development, and humanitarian aid. The Afghan people desperately need all of these to have hope for a better future and to have reasons to reject violent extremism.

The supplemental funding request for Afghanistan, which I opposed in May, was a lost opportunity to take a more successful approach to our relationships in Afghanistan as 90 percent of the funding went to purely military activities while only 10 percent of the supplemental funds was devoted to development activities and to the civilian surge, which are so badly needed. To correct this disastrous imbalance, Madam Speaker, America must have a foreign policy based on SMART security instead of military power alone.

One of the advantages of SMART security is that it works to eliminate the root causes of violent extremism by emphasizing economic development and debt relief to the world's poorest countries. The SMART Security Platform for the 21st century, which I have proposed in House Resolution 363, calls for these policies.

The need to increase aid to the Third World was underscored last week, Madam Speaker, when the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reported that a record 1 billion people worldwide are now going hungry. The world's poorest and hungriest nations are potential safe havens for violent extremists. The governments are too weak or

are too corrupt to keep them out, so the extremists are likely to find new recruits among the discontented populations, and those recruits become terrorists by training, and they are trained to attack the United States and other countries.

Even if the Taliban fighters in Afghanistan were to disappear into thin air today, a new terror threat is likely to pop up somewhere else in the world where people are hungry, where people are desperate. If we do a better job of feeding the hungry, we will do a better job of starving terrorism, and we will take an important step toward restoring our moral leadership in the world.

I know that President Obama understands this. I urge him to incorporate that understanding into his policies and to use the effective tools of SMART security to make our Nation and the world safer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE ARE DYING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I pointed out 2 weeks ago that a Harvard study published in a peer-reviewed journal established that 44,789 Americans die every year because they have no health insurance.

I was surprised to see the reaction in some quarters. On talk radio, people said, I don't believe it. It simply isn't true. Somehow, "I don't believe it; it simply isn't true," passes for logical, intelligent thought these days. But it is true. Just a few days ago, a U.S. Senator said that he wasn't sure whether it's true that 44,789 Americans die every year because they have no health insurance. Well, if it were me and I wasn't sure, I would err on the side of caution.

Be that as it may, since the health debate now turns upon whether we are willing to change things in order to make America a better place to provide useful, affordable and comprehensive health care and to stop this terrible national tragedy where 122 Americans die every single day because they have no health insurance, I make the following modest proposal.

I think it dishonors all of those Americans who have lost their lives be-

cause they have no health coverage—by ignoring them, by not paying attention to them and by doing nothing to change the situations that led them to lose their lives. So I make this simple proposal:

I propose that we identify them. I propose that we honor their memories by naming them. They, themselves, can no longer speak, but their families, the ones who love them, can speak. So I've established a Web site called namesofthedead.com.

I invite to it all of those people who've suffered the terrible tragedy of losing a loved one, whether it be of a son or a spouse or an uncle or a mother or a father. For all of us who've lost somebody close to us because they had no health coverage, because they had no health insurance and because they died, I propose that we all go to this Web site, namesofthedead.com, and that we name them, that we honor them, that we cherish their memories, and that we show our respect for their memories by simply naming them.

I also make the following modest proposal: that we all look forward to a day not too far in the distant future when we honor them further in this way, that we honor them further by making sure that no more names are added to this list, that we close it out for all time so that, in the future, it will be a historical artifact and so that no one will ever die in America because one can't see a doctor.

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, after 9 months of struggling to find its footing, the administration has finally unveiled its long-awaited policy toward Sudan. The policy looks remarkably familiar, and it has some merits. Unfortunately, those merits are overshadowed by the prospect of offering incentives and political legitimacy to one of the most manipulative and murderous regimes on the planet.

The administration's desire to bring peace and development to Sudan is without doubt, but the desire to strike a conciliatory tone without first requiring that the Butcher from Khartoum unclench his fist and meet certain conditions has placed the U.S. in a position of weakness against a regime that has proven time and time again that it only responds to concrete pressure.

This man, General Bashir, is a war criminal; and he is responsible for the deaths of over 2 million people. This regime, rooted in radical ideology, is responsible for the ongoing genocide which has claimed 300,000 lives and has displaced 3 million more. This cabal will never be a part of a real solution to the crisis in Darfur, and it must not be treated by the U.S. as a legitimate partner for peace.